

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 532711
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

December 18, 2009

ATTENTION OF:

Office of the Chief
Regulatory Division

Ventura Port District Attention: Richard W. Parsons 1603 Anchors Way Drive Ventura, California 93001-4229

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Reference is made to your request of May 8, 2009 to amend Permit No. SPL-2006-01735-PHT, which authorized you to dredge and deposit dredged material in and adjacent to Ventura Harbor, located in the City and County of Ventura, California.

Under the provisions of 33 Code of Federal Regulations 325.7(b), item 1 of your permit is modified as follows:

Maintenance dredge, to design depths, up to 100,000 cubic yards of material per year for five years from the inner harbor (Areas A-F) and deposit the dredged material in the surf zone at the Santa Clara River mouth, or in three depressions within the harbor, or in the 4,000 feet of nearshore area off McGrath State Beach and south of the Santa Clara River mouth, as shown on the enclosed Plates 1 and 2, dated July 13, 2006, and Plate 1, dated June 11, 2009.

Design depths are as follows: -18 feet MLLW in Area A; -18 feet MLLW in Area B; -15 feet MLLW in west Area C; -18 feet MLLW in east Area C; -15 feet MLLW in Area D; -12 feet MLLW in south Area D; -12 feet MLLW in Area E; and -28 feet MLLW in Area F, as shown on the Plates referenced above.

If limited access to the mouth of the Arundell Barranca and/or the Olivas Park Storm Drain prevents hydraulic, floating clamshell, or hopper operations, maintenance dredge to design depths, up to 2,500 cubic yards of material per year for five years, from the mouth of the Arundell Barranca and/or the Olivas Park Storm Drain using a shore-based clamshell operation with uplands disposal.

In addition, your permit is modified to include the following special conditions:

1a. Prior to each maintenance dredging event, the Permittee shall conduct a pre-project eelgrass survey in accordance with the Southern California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy (SCEMP) (http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/policies/EELPOLrev11 final.pdf). The pre-project eelgrass

survey shall be conducted during the growing season (March-October), to the extent feasible. The Permittee shall provide the results of the pre-project eelgrass survey to the Corps, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and California Department of Fish and Game at least 15 days prior to initiation of proposed work.

- 1b. If the pre-project survey demonstrates eelgrass presence within the project vicinity, a post-project eelgrass survey shall be conducted in accordance with the SCEMP. The post-project eelgrass survey shall be conducted and submitted to the Corps and NMFS within 30 calendar days of project completion.
- 1c. Any impacts identified by these eelgrass surveys shall be mitigated per sections 3-12 of the SCEMP. Based upon the pre- and post-project eelgrass survey results and in accordance with the SCEMP, the Corps will determine the need and/or amount of eelgrass mitigation required to offset adverse impacts to such habitat. The Corps will transmit its determination to the Permittee in writing. Within 60 calendar days of receiving the Corps determination specifying the need and amount of mitigation, the Permittee shall submit a draft mitigation plan to the Corps for review and approval. The mitigation plan shall be prepared in accordance with the SCEMP. The Permittee shall fully implement the final mitigation plan as approved by the Corps.
- 2. The Permittee shall send one copy of the post-dredging completion report required by Special Condition III.A of the permit to NMFS within 30 days after completion of the authorized dredging and disposal operations to the attention of Bryant Chesney, Habitat Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213. The post-dredging completion report shall include the acreage affected by dredging and disposal activities.
- The Permittee shall notify NMFS at least 72 hours in advance of dredging and disposal operations at (562) 980-4037.

The terms and conditions of Permit No. SPL-2006-01735-PHT, except as changed herein, remain in full force and effect.

Thank you for participating in our regulatory program. If you have any questions, please contact Phuong Trinh of my staff at 213.452.3372 or via e-mail at Phuong.H.Trinh@usace.army.mil.

Please be advised that you can now comment on your experience with Regulatory Division by accessing the Corps web-based customer survey form at http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Swenson Chief, Los Angeles Section North Coast Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosures





